



*Brockton, Massachusetts*  
*"City of Champions"*  
*Linda M. Balzotti – Mayor*

**Brockton High School Graduation**

**June 3, 2011**

Good Evening Mr. Superintendent, Dr. Szachowicz, members of the school committee, city councilors, administrators, faculty, staff, family and friends of the Class of 2011.

For those of you about to graduate, allow me to be the first one to welcome you to the ranks of Brockton High School alumni. It's a large, but illustrious group that includes many people who have made an impact in our city and afar. Your principal Dr. Szachowicz is a member of this group, and so am I. In fact, I'm the first mayor in the last 20 years to be a graduate of BHS.

As a fellow graduate, and a Mayor, I am proud of the accolades your hard work in the classroom and on standardized tests has brought to our city and our school system. It is not only a testament to your dedication but also the care and quality of the education provided at Brockton High School. The recognition your work received was realized on a national scale – not something that many high school students can say, and, what's more, it also highlighted the countless other enrichment opportunities available for our students – from sports, to arts, to

social and cultural groups. You've blazed a trail of achievement for future Brockton High School students, and I thank you for that.

From today forward, your paths may lead you far and wide. Thomas Wolfe once said that: "You can't go home again." I'd like to respectfully disagree with Mr. Wolfe. I welcome each and every one of you back next year, in five years, or even 50. The future of Brockton depends on motivated young people like all of you. There are always opportunities to help and serve, and we'd love to have you.

I encourage you to continue to build on what you have learned not just within the walls of Brockton High School, but in the community. Take that experience with you, wherever your future leads you. Take that desire to seize the opportunities offered to you, and the knowledge that to accomplish great things, great effort and commitment is needed. As the poet Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

Congratulations graduates. I wish you well and much success in the future.